



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans News

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNS LEGISLATION TO HELP NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS GAIN STATE EMPLOYMENT

California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Tom Johnson today announced that the Governor has signed legislation that will give California National Guard (CNG) members, and in some cases their families, a preference when applying for state civil service jobs.

"Our brave men and women in the military are incredible and we owe them our deepest gratitude for taking extraordinary risks and making tremendous sacrifices in defense of our country's freedom and democracy," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This legislation will help our National Guard members continue their career serving others by becoming a California state employee."

The Governor signed [Assembly Bill 2550](#) by Assemblymember Blakeslee (R-San Luis Obispo) which allows for qualified CNG members or their surviving spouse to be eligible for "preference points" when applying for state civil service employment without separating or being discharged from the National Guard. This bill gives members returning from federal active duty the same opportunities provided to veterans who have similarly served their state and country during difficult times.

"In signing AB 2550, Governor Schwarzenegger moves forward California's promise to our men and women who answer our nation's call to active military service to care for them when they return," said Johnson. "It is only right that returning military personnel, specifically California National Guard members, and their families enjoy many of the same benefits enjoyed by those who served before them."

AB 2550 will:

- Allow CNG members, who today make up the nation's all-volunteer military personnel involved in the Global War on Terror, to receive preference points enabling them to apply for entry-level state jobs upon their return.
- Motivate eligible CNG members to apply for entry-level state jobs.
- Help address the issue of unemployment facing CNG troops returning to California.

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